

Teenager: Friend or Foe

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Whenever one sees the parents of teenagers, their appearance is the same: that of haggard and exhausted grownups, resigned and upset adults, clueless and forfeited guardians. In buses, in streets or in the privacy of their homes, this kind of parents can be identified on the spot. Having raised my own sister, I acknowledged many mistakes, but I was still able to create a recipe which allowed me to raise the most beautiful human being, and moreover, developed a wonderful relationship with my teenage sister.

Sometimes teenagers act as if they knew more than Einstein, they will sow the seed of doubt in your mind by telling their parent that their judgment is no good. If grownups allow doubt to creep into their minds, they will lose all their authority and control over their teenage offspring. The relationship with a teenager can be compared to a poker game. When a group of people are playing poker, players, at first, never show all their cards to their opponent because they would automatically lose. When teenagers try to impose that they know everything, adults must remain strong and avoid showing all their cards or they will immediately be submitted to their teenagers' desires.

But the worst dangers in raising teenagers is when the wicked cellphone enters their lives. These mobile devices appear in their lives to destroy every possible form of oral communication that parents might have with their "young adults." Dinner time becomes silent times to the youngsters will be too busy staring at the flashing screen, with an occasional bite of the cold slap-up meal. Asking them to leave the cellphone behind for an hour is good enough reason to start a war. Heavy ammunition will be launched, and even the most delicious meal will be left barely untouched. After a heated argument, the teenagers will march into their rooms, and release all the anger on the innocent door.

A second great opponent for a parent is the unequal fight against headphones. A command must always be given three or four times until teenagers actually listen to it. That is because they are always wearing headphones which block out the world's noises. Nothing that a parent says will be heard-never forget: the perfunctory, usual "hmm" does not mean that they have heard you, young adults use this tactic just to trick you-, so parents can either pretend that they have not realised that they are being ignored and talk to themselves or they can begin a World War III by trying to force their teenage offspring to take off their headphones.

As children grow up, they leave behind cute and adorable boys and girls and turn into melodramatic, insensitive teenagers, whose only mission in life is to lie slouching around and sleeping late -any resemblance to the sloth bear is merely a coincidence. Headphones become an extension of their ears as they listen to music all day thus giving a death ear to the unpleasant noises of the world around them. After years of living and raising one, I have discovered that: everything you do as a parent-or guardian in my case-

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will be wrong. All your decisions will be either old-fashioned or unpleasant. Thus, if you wish to raise a decent and thoughtful young adult –and survive in the process– be ready to undergo the most stressful moments of your life, and try to enjoy the ride.